

-30-

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of obtaining data from a first backup medium comprising:
reading data from the first backup medium;
identifying an application used to generate the first backup medium;
accessing information regarding a logical format for data on the first backup medium; and
locating data on the first backup medium based on the information regarding the logical format.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying comprises searching for an identifying signature used by the application.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information regarding the logical format includes a location where a specific type of information within the first backup medium is found.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the information regarding the logical format includes a location on the first backup medium for: a checksum for a file header, a file name, a file size, a marker used to denote an end of file, a file last modification date, a file creation date, a file permission, start of a file content, an owner identifier, an owner name, a group identifier, a group name, or any combination thereof.

-31-

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to locating, extracting a portion of the data from the first backup medium.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising filtering the portion of the data to obtain at least a part of the portion of the data.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein filtering is based on a criterion including a file name extension, a date that a file was created or last modified, an owner, or a group.
8. The method of claim 6, further comprising storing the at least a part of the portion of the data on a target sub-system.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the method is performed on a second backup medium;
 - the second backup medium was generated using a different application compared to the application that generated the first backup medium; and
 - during at least one point in time, the method is performed on the first and second backup media on the same system simultaneously using a single data processing system.

-32-

10. The method of claim 1, wherein reading data from the first backup medium comprises reading data from a portion of the first backup medium.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein accessing information is performed in response to identifying the application.

-33-

12. A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code comprising:
 - an instruction for reading data from the first backup medium;
 - an instruction for identifying an application used to generate the first backup medium;
 - an instruction for accessing information regarding a logical format for data on the first backup medium; and
 - an instruction for locating data on the first backup medium based on the information regarding the logical format.
13. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein the instruction for identifying comprises an instruction for searching for an identifying signature used by the application.
14. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, wherein the information regarding the logical format includes a location where a specific type of information within the first backup medium is found.

-34-

15. The data processing system readable medium of claim 14, wherein the information regarding the logical format includes a location on the first backup medium for: a checksum for a file header, a file name, a file size, a marker used to denote an end of file, a file last modification date, a file creation date, a file permission, start of a file content, an owner identifier, an owner name, a group identifier, a group name, or any combination thereof.
16. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12, further comprising, in response to locating, an instruction for extracting a portion of the data from the first backup medium.
17. The data processing system readable medium of claim 16, further comprising an instruction for filtering the portion of the data to obtain at least a part of the portion of the data.
18. The data processing system readable medium of claim 17, wherein the instruction for filtering is based on a criterion including a file name extension, a date that a file was created or last modified, an owner, or a group.
19. The data processing system readable medium of claim 17, further comprising an instruction for storing the at least a part of the portion of the data on a target sub-system.

-35-

20. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12,
wherein:

the data processing system readable medium can be used on
a second backup medium;

the second backup medium was generated using a different
application compared to the application that generated
the first backup medium; and

during at least one point in time, a single data
processing system can execute the instructions of the
data processing system readable medium for the first
and second backup media simultaneously.

21. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12,
wherein the instruction for reading data from the first
backup medium comprises an instruction reading data from a
portion of the first backup medium.

22. The data processing system readable medium of claim 12,
wherein the instruction for accessing information is
performed in response to identifying the application.

-36-

23. A system for retrieving information from backup media comprising: /
- a first backup medium, wherein the first backup medium was generated using a first backup application;
 - a second backup medium, wherein the second backup medium was generated using a second backup application;
 - a target sub-system; and
 - a data extraction sub-system capable of reading and understanding the information on the first and second backup media and storing at least a portion of the information onto the target sub-system.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the first and second backup applications use different operating systems.
25. The system of claim 23, wherein the data extraction sub-system comprises information regarding the logical format for information on the first and second backup media and the target sub-system.